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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

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Stocks on Farms, April 1

Winter wheat production is estimated at 1.0 billion bushels, up 5 percent from the December 1963 forecast. Expected production is 12 percent more than in 1963 but 1 percent below the 1958-62 average.

Corn stocks on farms April 1, estimated at a record 2.3 billion bushels, are 13 percent above a year earlier and 16 percent above average.

Wheat stocks on farms are estimated at 153 million bushels, lowest since 1947--22 percent under a year earlier and 33 percent below average.

Oats stocks on farms are estimated at 446 million bushels, up 4 percent from last year but 9 percent below average.

Barley farm stocks totaled 129 million bushels, 1 percent below last year and below average.

Rye stocks on farms are estimated at 3.5 million bushels, down 53 percent from last year and 50 percent below average.

Flaxseed stocks on farms are 8 million bushels, 4 percent more than last year and 14 percent above average.

Soybean farm stocks, estimated at 190 million bushels, are a record high for April 1--41 percent above a year earlier and 53 percent above average.

Sorghum stocks totaled 109 million bushels, up 8 percent from a year earlier and 11 percent above average.

earlier and 12 percent above average. Farm holdings of corn at 113 percent and sorghum at 108 percent of last year, were record highs. Oats stocks on farms were 4 percent above, but barley stocks were 1 percent below, a year earlier.

Spring Vegetable Production Down

The production of early spring vegetables is estimated to be 7 percent less than in 1963, although slightly higher than average. The lowered estimates for individual crops include asparagus, cabbage, sweet corn, lettuce, and tomatoes. Only celery, onions, and strawberries are expected to exceed last year. Cutting of California Delta asparagus is later than usual, but harvest is underway for asparagus, lettuce, and tomatoes. Also being harvested are sweet corn, celery, and tomatoes in Florida; strawberries in Louisiana.

Prices of Farm Products

Winter Wheat Prospects Rise During Winter

According to the Crop Reporting Board, winter wheat survived the winter with a minimum of loss and entered the spring growing season in good condition. The April 1 forecast for winter wheat production is 1,011 million bushels, 12 percent larger than last year but a bit under average. The estimated yield per seeded acre of 23.5 bushels is 2.0 bushels per acre more than last year but a half bushel below average.

Small Grain Prospects Favorable

Cool weather during much of March throughout most winter grain areas retarded crop development, but by the end of March winter wheat and other small grains in the Central and Southern States were showing new growth. Much of the winter grain producing area received rainfall in March and early April. Although some greening is developing in local areas, grains in the Northern States are still mostly dormant. Crops are generally in good condition across the Nation and little winter kill is evident.

Feed Grains on Farms Up 11 Percent

Total tonnage of the four feed grains stored on farms April 1 was 11 percent greater than a year

Commodity	Average Prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices based on data for Mar. 1964
	Feb. 1964	Mar. 1964	
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)..... ct.	29.43	30.68	40.78
Wheat (bu.).....dol.	1.99	1.85	2.52
Rice (100 lb.).....dol.	5.13	5.17	6.35
Corn (bu.).....dol.	1.08	1.11	1.56
Peanuts (lb.).....ct.	11.6	11.4	14.1
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Milkfat in cream (lb.)..... ct.	58.6	58.7	77.3
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.).....dol.	4.25	¹ 4.14	5.38
Wool (lb.).....ct.	50.1	² 52.5	79.5
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.).....dol.	.901	.902	1.23
Cottonseed (ton).....dol.	48.70	46.30	62.90
Flaxseed (bu.).....dol.	2.79	2.85	3.82
Hay, baled (ton).....dol.	24.70	24.00	26.90
Oats (bu.).....dol.	.638	.631	.842
Potatoes (cwt.).....dol.	1.55	1.74	2.34
Rye (bu.).....dol.	1.14	1.07	1.38
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.).....dol.	1.75	1.75	2.44
Soybeans (bu.).....dol.	2.57	2.55	3.03
Sweetpotatoes (cwt.).....dol.	5.02	5.29	5.73
Oranges, on tree (box).....dol.	3.95	3.54	3.22
Apples, for fresh use (bu.).....dol.	2.20	2.46	3.09
Beef cattle (100 lb.).....dol.	18.10	18.60	24.70
Calves (100 lb.).....dol.	23.30	23.30	28.20
Hogs (100 lb.).....dol.	14.30	14.10	21.70
Lambs (100 lb.).....dol.	18.50	19.80	24.70
Chickens, all ('b.).....ct.	13.9	14.0	22.6
Eggs (dozen).....ct.	34.9	34.1	47.0

¹Preliminary²Does not include incentive payment

Processing Acreage Below Last Year

Prospective planted acreage of the 7 crops grown chiefly for processing in 1964 is 1 percent less than in 1963 and 5 percent less than average.

Winter Blusters Through March

Winter weather during March continued to hold back early spring crop development and hampered field activity, particularly east of the Continental Divide. Frequent rain, and snow storms of varying amounts during the month replenished considerable surface and sub-soil moisture throughout much of the eastern half of the country. Heaviest rainfall occurred in the Ohio River Valley where extensive flooding resulted over much of the low land. Frequent rains, particularly in the latter

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1963		1964		
	March	Year	Jan.	Feb.	March
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹ .	62.8	63.9	63.2	64.1	64.5
Farm employment	5.7	6.5	4.5	4.8	5.3
Family	4.5	4.7	3.7	3.9	4.2
Hired	1.2	1.8	.8	.9	1.1
Index numbers (1957-59 = 100)					
Industrial production ²	121	124	127	128	128
Total personal income payments ³ .	125	127	131	131	132
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	113	118	118	119	120
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	116	118	119	120	120
Wholesale prices, all commodities ⁴	100	100	101	100	100
Farm commodities	95	96	96	94	95
Food, processed	99	101	102	101	100
Consumer price index ⁴	106	107	108	108	--
Food	105	105	106	106	--
Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)					
Prices received by farmers	240	241	243	240	240
Crops	238	238	243	242	243
Food grains	234	224	230	229	215
Feed grains and hay	161	164	166	164	166
Cotton	270	270	254	249	259
Tobacco	501	496	489	490	490
Oil bearing crops	258	258	268	263	260
Fruit	268	279	306	298	295
Commercial vegetables	237	238	261	278	299
Livestock and products	242	244	242	238	237
Meat animals	281	289	274	269	273
Dairy products	249	252	265	261	254
Poultry and eggs	155	145	154	147	144
Prices paid by farmers	283	283	283	283	283
All commodities	297	298	298	299	298
Used in living	274	273	273	271	272
Used in production	311	312	313	313	313
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index).	663	677	673	673	673
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted	77	77	78	77	77
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index)					

¹ Bureau of the Census. ² Federal Reserve Board. ³ Department of Commerce. ⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics--any figures not available at press time omitted.

part of the month in most Southern and South Atlantic States, provided excessive moisture except in well drained fields. Sub-soil moisture, was still inadequate in the Plains States from the High Plains of Texas to North Dakota and Montana and in the northern Corn Belt States. In the Western States, rainfall was generally light throughout the month except in the Northwest Coastal areas where soil moisture was adequate. Snowpack in the mountain areas was increased.

Southern Peach Crop Hurt by Late March Freeze

As a result of freezes on March 29 and 30, prospects for the Southern peach crop are down sharply from last year. Most of the damage occurred in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Alabama with the most severe losses in North Carolina. Other Southern States report little damage and expect good crops. Little winter freeze damage is reported outside the Southern States.

Citrus Production Estimate Down 3 Percent

The 1963-64 citrus production estimate is down slightly from last month and 3 percent less than last season. The orange crop is forecast 7 percent smaller than last season and grapefruit is down 4 percent. About 48 million boxes of oranges and 6.4 million boxes of grapefruit remained for harvest after April 1. A year ago, 29 million boxes of oranges and 6 million boxes of grapefruit were harvested after April 1.

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan. - Feb. 1963	Jan. - Feb. 1964
Dairy Production			
Milk.....	Bil. lb.	¹ 30.4	¹ 30.9
Evaporated whole milk.....	Mil. lb.	259.6	283.8
Dry nonfat milk solids... (for human food).....	Mil. lb.	340.4	357.1
Butter, creamery	Mil. lb.	251.2	248.6
Cheese, American	Mil. lb.	147.4	165.8
Ice cream	Mil. gal.	93.7	98.3
Poultry Production			
Eggs	Billions	¹ 15.7	¹ 16.3
Federally inspected slaughter: ²			
Chickens.....	Mil. lb.	7 738.5	803.3
Turkeys.....	Mil. lb.	44.2	44.7
Poultry for further processing...	Mil. lb.	93.1	99.7
Liquid egg.....	Mil. lb.	54.8	73.5
Dried egg (egg solids)	Mil. lb.	3.2	4.8
Frozen egg.....	Mil. lb.	34.8	46.1
Meat Production (dressed weight) ³			
Beef.....	Mil. lb.	2,516	2,810
Veal.....	Mil. lb.	144	139
Pork.....	Mil. lb.	1,985	2,133
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	132	126
Total red meat.....	Mil. lb.	4,777	5,208

¹ January-March

² Ready-to-cook

³ Commercial; excludes farm slaughter

Spring Farming Activity Lags

Unfavorable weather continued to hamper field activity during March in many areas, but land preparation and seeding of spring crops proceeded where possible. Wet fields over much of the eastern half of the Nation limited activity, but in the western States cooler than normal temperatures, and to some extent dry soils, slowed planting.

In the southern States, planting and land preparation was 1 to 3 weeks later than usual because of wet fields. Top dressing was delayed in some areas but was past the peak in others. Tobacco transplanting, hampered by wet fields, was getting underway in the Southeastern States. In the northern regions, below normal temperatures, wet fields, and light snow cover in the northernmost areas limited activity largely to routine chores, though some planting of oats and grasses and fertilizing were accomplished where conditions permitted.

Seeding of spring grains was well along in the Kansas-Oklahoma area and planting of cotton and corn in Texas was well advanced. In California planting of sugar beets, corn, and sorghums continued, and rice land preparation neared completion. In the Northwest, field work progressed slowly in eastern Oregon and Washington because of cold weather and light snow cover but pruning, spraying, fertilizing and other activity were more nearly on schedule in western parts.

Spring Potato Crop Expected Lower Than Last Year

The early spring potato crop is expected to be 15 percent less than in 1963 but 12 percent above average. Following slow development earlier, good progress has been made by most of the crop. Only minor leaf burn resulted from the late March cold snap. Chiefly, the crop is grown in the Hastings area of Florida. Late spring acreage for harvest is estimated 14 percent less than last year's harvest with the decrease general throughout the late spring States. As a result of lower yields indicated for Florida, the winter production estimate for potatoes was reduced 2 percent from a month earlier.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-Food Products

Year and Month	Retail Cost ¹	Farm Value ²	Farm-Retail Spread	Farmer's Share
1963 average.....	\$ 1,078	\$ 394	\$ 684	37%
1963 Feb.	1,084	398	686	37%
1964 Jan.	1,079	398	681	37%
1964 Feb.	1,079	393	686	36%

Pasture Conditions Poor

Pasture conditions on April 1 were the lowest for the date in seven years. In many areas, the poor conditions stem largely from the damage as a result of the extended drought last summer and fall as well as from overgrazing. March rainfall improved pastures in the South where grasses should respond quickly to warmer weather, but elsewhere prospects were below average. Lack of moisture in the West is affecting pastures. In the North Central and Northeast regions poor pasture conditions have prevailed since last fall. In the Plains States pastures are short because of heavy grazing during the open winter.

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, February 1964¹

State	Livestock and Products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.
Maine	10,038	6,596	16,634
New Hampshire	3,747	846	4,593
Vermont	8,860	1,109	9,969
Massachusetts	8,066	4,346	12,412
Rhode Island	980	496	1,476
Connecticut	7,373	6,030	13,403
New York	50,484	16,800	67,284
New Jersey	12,177	3,667	15,844
Pennsylvania	46,931	13,501	60,432
Ohio	49,699	28,720	78,419
Indiana	55,673	49,679	105,352
Illinois	86,435	119,010	205,445
Michigan	33,504	20,376	53,880
Wisconsin	88,526	10,618	99,144
Minnesota	85,593	33,628	119,221
Iowa	152,228	73,641	225,869
Missouri	48,775	17,833	66,608
North Dakota	12,425	22,549	34,974
South Dakota	34,831	11,915	46,746
Nebraska	55,608	38,699	94,307
Kansas	54,312	32,139	86,451
Delaware	4,969	1,354	6,323
Maryland	14,388	3,306	17,694
Virginia	16,698	6,479	23,177
West Virginia	4,649	1,830	6,479
North Carolina	25,248	8,111	33,359
South Carolina	8,427	7,671	16,098
Georgia	33,794	11,575	45,369
Florida	17,511	95,350	112,861
Kentucky	21,460	16,972	38,432
Tennessee	18,084	11,217	29,301
Alabama	26,464	5,791	32,255
Mississippi	21,372	11,494	32,866
Arkansas	20,314	9,390	29,704
Louisiana	12,695	11,114	23,809
Oklahoma	23,566	7,086	30,652
Texas	69,483	44,020	113,503
Montana	8,913	15,501	24,414
Idaho	14,109	11,910	26,019
Wyoming	4,370	1,217	5,587
Colorado	26,753	9,830	36,583
New Mexico	5,684	3,414	9,098
Arizona	12,400	17,767	30,167
Utah	9,595	1,857	11,452
Nevada	2,341	665	3,006
Washington	16,204	18,744	34,948
Oregon	13,799	9,058	22,857
California	94,085	100,650	194,735
United States	1,453,640	955,571	2,409,211
United States, Jan.-Feb.	3,152,618	2,636,160	5,788,778
Same period, year ago	3,155,101	2,668,471	5,823,572

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per family in 1952 by urban wage-earner and clerical-worker families calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

¹All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

On April 1, there were 8,265,000 cattle and calves on feed in 28 major feeding States for slaughter market, 1 percent more than a year earlier according to the Crop Reporting Board. In 32 States for which estimates are available this April, a total of 8,395,000 cattle and calves was on feed compared with a total of 9,085,000 head January 1, 1964, for these same States.

The number on feed in the 28 States declined 7 percent from January 1 to April 1 this year compared with a 9 percent decline for the same period in 1963.

Cash Receipts From Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketings, United States¹

	February 1964	March 1964
CASH RECEIPTS		
Total marketings and CCC loans ²	2,409	2,400
Livestock and products.....	1,454	1,600
Meat animals.....	787	
Dairy products.....	392	
Poultry and eggs	241	
Other	33	
Crops.....	955	800
Food grains.....	106	
Feed crops.....	336	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	74	
Oil-bearing crops.....	100	
Tobacco.....	31	
Vegetables	122	
Fruits and tree nuts.....	99	
Other	87	
Government payments	157	
Grand total.....	2,566	
VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS:		
All commodities.....	115	112
Livestock and products.....	131	140
Crops.....	95	74

¹ For comparison with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. ² Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month. Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

March Egg and Milk Production Up

March egg production was 2 percent more than a year earlier. There were record highs for egg production, regionally, in the South Atlantic and West, and all other regions showed increases except the North Central States. Milk production rose 1 percent above a year earlier and 2 percent above average.

Farm Employment Rises Seasonally But Lower Than a Year Earlier

Farm employment during the last week in March rose 12 percent over the previous month but was 6 percent below the same period last year--and the lowest of record. The decline from a year ago resulted from unfavorable weather in most parts of the country, increasing farm mechanization, and continuing consolidation of farms. Farm family workers totaled 4,227,000, a drop of 5 percent from last March. Farmers employed 1,077,000 hired workers, a drop of 12 percent from a year earlier.

Farm Wage Rates Continue Uptrend

Despite an early season slowness in the pace of farm work, farm wage rates were moderately higher on April 1 than a year earlier in almost all States. The continued uptrend was in a consistent pattern that included all hiring arrangements reported. The U.S. composite average rate reached \$.827 per hour, and the index for this rate, seasonally adjusted was 3 percent above a year earlier and 21 percent above the 1957-59 comparable average.

Estimates Up for Bush Berries

Acreage of bush berries for harvest in 1964 in the States of Washington and Oregon is indicated by growers to be 8 percent above 1963 and 9 percent above 1962. Increased acreage is in prospect for all types of bush berries estimated except Currants and Loganberries. Canes are in good condition in Washington and fair to good condition in Oregon.

William T. Schanger, Editor